

Copying With The 'Outside'

Parole Means Freedom—To Do What?

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The author was paroled from the California Correctional Institute at Tehachapi in November of 1972. He is 34 years old and has spent 13 of those years in various maximum security penitentiaries. Here he describes his new life on the "outside.")

By GENE HERRINGTON
BAKERSFIELD, Calif.—(NEA)—After spending 13 years of my life behind prison bars, I find coping with free-world society quite confusing.

When I was released from state prison on parole last Thanksgiving Day, I felt joy and elation with my new freedom. Although I had no job to go to, I had hoped to be attending Bakersfield College as a full-time student under the GI Bill in February. As things turned out, I see now where this idea was not very realistic for someone like myself. I have no relatives to live with and nobody to pay the rent or food bills.

I was lucky to find temporary work in an almond packing house as soon as I got out. This kept me going until Christmas. However, once that job ended, and I couldn't find anything else to do, I sank into a state of mental depression. I am healthy and want to work, yet society has nothing for me to do! Many prospective employers have rejected my applications because of my police record. To add to the financial burden, I caught the "London" flu and had to spend time at the county hospital for treatment and medication.

Since I am probably the first felon to be initiated into the Knights of Columbus, the Bakersfield Council was kind enough to lend me \$600 to purchase a pickup truck so I could get around town. Getting insurance was hard with a felony record, but eventually a broker found a company that would take me at an added monthly premium.

It wasn't just financial problems which I had to learn to handle, but also the emotional adjustments necessary to survive. Quite naturally I fell passionately in love with the first girl who gave me any attention after half a decade in a world without women. I dreamed of her day and night. If she wasn't actually with me in person, she was in my fantasies. Whether I was at work, at home, or anywhere, she would be there with me—in my imagination.

Unfortunately, the affair lasted but three weeks and I had to learn by experience that sometimes grown men do cry. The hurt from it all has made me wary of forming any deep, personal relationships again for awhile.

In prison one can steel himself against possible physical assault. I have been beat, cut, shot and had bones broken by both police officials and prisoners, and learned how to survive—by not getting personally involved. I could see a fellow inmate or a guard stabbed to death and walk away from it without getting upset in the least. Outside, however, I find myself sensitive to the slightest feeling of rejection (whether real or imagined) and am scared to death to let go and love. Adjusting to a male-female world, as opposed to an all-male world, is a difficult thing.

Although I am sick and tired of being locked up and having nothing, and being dehumanized by the prison system, if it were not for the moral support of my parole agent, a newspaper editor, a priest, a school principal, and a couple of girl friends—I question whether I would still be a free man today. I've been so scared and lonely at times I don't see how I ever survived this long, but somehow I have. I couldn't have done it alone.

I went to prison at the age of 19, was released when I was 23, stayed free three weeks, and was returned for another five-year sentence. At that time I was too proud to accept charity, too immature to set proper value on anything, and too bitter to respect anything or anybody.

When I was almost broke, I spent my last 20-dollar bill on a "Saturday Night Special" (.22-caliber pistol), and set out to take what I felt the world owed me for all the years of suffering and humiliations the prison system put me through. I didn't get far, though, because within 24 hours of my first holdup I was caught and on the way back again.

Today I still feel little resentments. I can't vote and to me this is an archaic, extrajudicial punishment which should have no bearing on the chances of my ever returning to a life of crime. I can't get married, buy a car, purchase property, or leave the country without permission from state officials.

I'm somehow scratching out a daily existence through little, temporary and part-time jobs I've been getting through the state employment agency. My revised plans include full-time employment as soon as I can find it, and attendance as a part-time student in the evening division of Bakersfield College where I'll be majoring in journalism.



Most Wanted List Leveled Off

WASHINGTON (AP)—The FBI's list of most wanted fugitives has leveled off at 10, with more than half of them political revolutionaries, and there is no indication it will be expanded in the near future.

But there is no reason why it couldn't, should the need arise.

"We're not wedded to the number ten," said Jack E. Herrington, the FBI spokesman. "We would like to keep it at 10. If it's necessary, we'll add names to the list."

The 23-year-old Ten Most Wanted Fugitives program first went over 10 in 1961 when hatchet-killer Richard Markette was put on the list. He was arrested the following day.

In late 1970, however, the FBI list reached a record high with 16 people, nine of them sought for such crimes as sabo-

tage and terrorist acts.

The current list, which was reduced to 10 last summer, contains the names of seven so-called political revolutionaries.

Herrington said that the political fugitives have caused the investigative agency some problems because they may have fled the country to a sanctuary where the U.S. has no jurisdiction, such as Algeria.

Another problem, he said, is that the political fugitive doesn't travel in the same circles as the traditional bank robber or murderer whose apprehension built the reputation of accomplishment for the FBI.

"They move in a different culture," he said. "The political fugitive does not move in the normal underground system. It makes it more difficult for us."

On Feb. 17, 1972, Karleton Lewis Armstrong, one of four

men wanted in connection with a fatal bombing on the University of Wisconsin campus, was captured by Canadian police in Toronto.

Only one other person on the then-list of 12 was apprehended during the year—Byron J. Rice who had been charged with the murder of an armored car guard. He surrendered to FBI agents in Chicago last Aug. 1.

There have been 317 persons put on the most wanted fugitive list since its inception in 1950 and 295 have been apprehended. Twelve others, including two last year, were taken off because they either were believed dead or the charges were dropped against them.

The "process dismissed" action is the only way a person's name can be removed from the list once it is put on.

Acting FBI director L. Patrick Gray III, and J. Edgar Hoover before him, decides what fugitives are placed on the Top Ten list after receiving recommendations from the field.

Hoover personally ordered the list to be expanded in 1961 and 1970 because he thought it was of utmost importance that the fugitives be caught.

Asked about the criticism that the FBI puts the name of fugitives they are about to capture on the list, Herrington replied that the charge was ridiculous.

"There hasn't been a single case like that," he said. "We don't get any extra points for a top 10 fugitive. If we can catch a fugitive, we'll catch him."

He said there have been quick arrests because the program works.

"The method has been effective because we have apprehended fugitives after he has been on the list for only 24 or 48 hours," he said. "But somebody may see his picture in the paper or on television and spot him on the street. That person will call the FBI and we are then able to move rapidly."

The newest addition to the Top Ten list is Mace Brown, a convicted hired assassin who participated in an escape from

the District of Columbia jail last fall. He was put on last Oct. 20.

Charles Lee Herron, one of five men allegedly involved in the slaying of one police officer and the critical wounding of another in Nashville, Tenn., on Jan. 16, 1968, was placed on the list on Feb. 9, 1968, and has been on the longest.

The others are Benjamin H. Paddock, who escaped from a federal prison in Texas while serving a 20-year sentence; Cameron D. Bishop, charged with sabotage in the dynamiting of Colorado power transmission towers;

Also, Dwight A. Armstrong, Leo Burt and David Fine, all wanted in the University of Wisconsin bombing; Bernardine Dohm, a self-described revolutionary Communist and leader of the Weatherman; and Susan E. Saxe and Katherine Ann Power, reputed members of a radical, revolutionary group dedicated to attacking the United States military system and undermining police powers.

Notice

This is to notify all Harlan City property owners that now is the time to declare your holdings for city purposes.

All property owners, male and female, who are 65 and over will be exempted from tax assessments up to and including \$6500 of valuation as their homestead exemption. Please be able to submit proof of age.

I will be at the city clerk's office to assist you to fill out your homestead claim and assist with tax assessment declaration from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Feb. 20, 21, 22, 23 and Feb. 26, 27 and 28.

Julian Ackley
City Tax Assessor

Sociologists Concerned About Early Retirement

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. (AP)—Early retirement is getting a close look from U.N. sociologists concerned that the trend may leave people demoralized if not destitute.

A report issued by Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim says

old people are frustrated and deprived because of "the loss of earning power and status through forced retirement."

The International Council on Social Welfare finds that livelihoods are threatened and family ties are broken by "the trend toward early retirement in industrialized societies."

Problems of the elderly are being examined here in a three-week session of the 32-nation U.N. Commission for Social Development.

Retirement is sometimes thought of as an idyllic state: the worker, freed at last from monotonous labor, can relax and enjoy himself. Some U.S. unions want companies to retire employees at 60 or 55 instead of the usual 65—or even after 30 years' work, no matter how young they are.

Waldheim's report notes that in some parts of the world the mandatory retirement age is as low as 50-55. "In the socialist countries," men are pensioned after 25 years' service and women after 20 years' service regardless of age.

He finds disadvantages in such cutoffs:

"The loss in earning power implies... a loss of status as the breadwinner in the family."

"For aged couples, retirement may mean dependence on children who, particularly in a society of nuclear families, may resent this burden of added responsibility," he adds.

That paragraph needs two definitions: for working purposes the United Nations regards the "aged" as those 65 or over; the nuclear family is the basic unit of husband, wife and children living apart from relatives.

Even in developing countries, "there is a trend towards exclusion of the elderly from the work force and an increase in early retirement," Waldheim notes.

Old people are getting to be more of a problem the world over, Waldheim says, because there are getting to be more of them.

"A very rapid growth for the population aged 65 and over can... be anticipated between 1965 and 2000," he says.

"Between 1960 and 1975, the total world population is expected to increase annually at a rate of at least 1.8 per cent, while the number of aged is expected to increase at a rate of 2.3 per cent."

Waldheim's paper is a progress report preliminary to a full study of the subject to come out next year.

The International Council on Social Welfare calls in its state-

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